

Claims

1. A method of streaming multimedia data from a server (15) to a client (14)  
5 over a network (13) having a variable bandwidth, the client being intended to decode a subset of streams within a set of streams (S1, S10) having various predetermined bit rates, said subset of streams having bit rates compatible with the network bandwidth, the method being further characterised in that it comprises the steps of configuring the client so that the client can decode all the streams within the set of streams, playing all the streams within the set of  
10 streams and muting all the streams within the set of streams, except the subset of streams.
2. A method of streaming multimedia data according to claim 1, wherein the step of muting all the streams except the subset of streams is performed by the server on a request from the client in accordance with the MUTE/UNMUTE extension of the Real Time  
15 Streaming Protocol.
3. A server (15) for serving a client (14) with a subset of streams over a network (13) having a variable bandwidth, said server comprising means for selecting the subset of streams within a set of streams having various predetermined bit rates, means for playing  
20 (11) all the streams within the set of streams and means for muting (12) all the streams within the set of streams, except the subset of streams.
4. A server as claimed in claim 3, wherein the means for selecting the subset of streams comprise means for measuring the network bandwidth.  
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5. A server as claimed in claim 3, wherein the means for selecting the subset of streams are controlled by a request from the client.
6. A client (14) intended to decode a subset of streams within a set of streams  
30 having various predetermined bit rates, said streams being sent over a network (13) having a variable bandwidth, said client comprising configuring means (21) in order to be able to decode all the streams within the set of streams, means for selecting a subset of streams having bit rates compatible with the network bandwidth and means for muting all the streams within the set of streams, except the subset of streams.

7. A telecommunication system comprising a server for serving a client with a subset of streams, said server comprising means for selecting the subset of streams within a set of streams having various predetermined bit rates, means for playing all the streams  
5 within the set of streams and means for muting streams, a network having a variable bandwidth and a client intended to decode the subset of streams, said client comprising configuring means in order to be able to decode all the streams within the set of streams, means for selecting a subset of streams having bit rates compatible with the network bandwidth and means for requesting that all the streams within the set of streams, except the  
10 subset of streams, are muted.

8. A computer program comprising a set of instructions which, when loaded into a processor or a computer, causes the processor or the computer to carry out the method as claimed in Claim 1.